

## Do you wonder how WSDOT happened to have web cams at the I-90 rockslide?

Cameras transmitting the live pictures of equipment and traffic at the I-90 rock slide are the result of innovation and initiative on the part of several WSDOT employees assigned to the Snoqualmie Pass area.

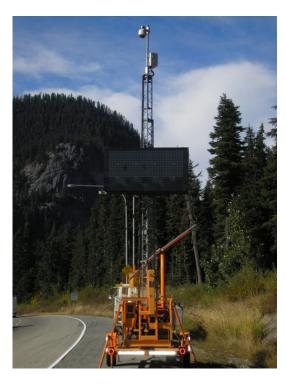
## Innovative trouble-shooting by WSDOT folks

The multi-use "portable work zone" has a changeable electronic message board, can transmit live camera shots via cell phone technology, and includes radar that transmits the speed of vehicle passing by the unit. When WSDOT's Mike Gousse and Lynn Cooke received the piece of equipment some time ago from another WSDOT region, it wasn't functioning. Mike and Lynn successfully retrofitted the unit with new digital communications. The software at the Central Washington traffic management center (TMC) in Yakima retrieves three different snapshots from the one PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) camera.

WSDOT used the retrofitted equipment during the 2003-2004 project that built a truck climbing lane from Vantage to Ryegrass. The unit transmitted three images of the traffic on the highway to the TMC in Yakima. The real-time images enabled the TMC dispatch to alert travelers and the State Patrol of back ups and incidents.

## Quick thinking put the unit in service within hours

WSDOT was planning on moving the portable unit to the Burbank area along US 12, to monitor traffic use of a traffic signal recently installed. Instead, when Gousse and Cooke learned of the rock slide and lane closure on I-90, they headed to the site to set up the camera. By Sunday afternoon, just hours after the first report of the slide and lane closure, real-time pictures of the slide area and contractor's equipment were viewable on WSDOT's web site.



Portable unit – displays electronic message and can transmit highway advisory radio and real-time camera images



Close up of work zone



Work zone



Looking east at approaching traffic